



# Connecticut Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2020

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## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program                              | FY 2019 Final      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cooperative Fire Protection          | \$491,826          |
| Cooperative Forestry                 | \$533,245          |
| Forest Health Management             | \$80,336           |
| Forest Legacy and Community Forestry | \$2,024,040        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$3,129,447</b> |

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

## Key Issues

- Maintaining forest ecosystem health and biodiversity.
- Promoting stewardship of public forests.
- Protecting private forest lands: Challenges and opportunities facing private forest landowners.
- Providing for forest-based recreational opportunities.
- Supporting a sustainable forest-based economy.
- Fostering public awareness and support of forests.
- Advocating and implementing effective forest planning and policy.
- Importance of ongoing forest research.
- Limits and threats to urban forestry in Connecticut.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

| Selected Facts                                    | Value     | FY 2019 Accomplishments  | Value     |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Population  | 3,574,097 | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance                             | 1,875     |
| Acres of Forest Land                              | 1,789,611 | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans                             | 2,404     |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land        | 1,383,000 | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 627       |
| Number of NIPF Landowners                         | 108,000   | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted  | 40        |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0         | State Fire Communities Assisted  | 230       |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 2,390,000 | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected   | 0         |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments                  | 276       | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions   | 79        |
| Cities and Towns                                  | 29        | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance                               | 165       |
| Forest Based Employment                           | 10,050    | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance          | 3,536,256 |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)             | 6         | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance  | 15,000    |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources)               | 1,627,000 |  |           |

## Program Highlights

### Cooperative Fire Protection

Connecticut was affected by a severe drought and gypsy moth outbreak from 2015 to 2017. This has caused extensive tree mortality, elevated fuel loading, and hazard tree risk. The state has been awarded one competitive State Fire Assistance grant to treat hazardous fuels, create fuel breaks, and train firefighters in the highest-priority mortality areas. The grant will provide funding for meetings to educate the public and local officials on the wildfire risks posed by the mortality and the strategies to reduce wildfire risks.

### Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer caused considerable ash mortality in the western two thirds of the state, especially in urban and street trees. Monitoring for the invasive beetle ceased as Connecticut became part of the contiguous quarantine. The gypsy moth population crashed but there are areas with significant oak mortality due to the previous outbreak. Beech leaf disease was confirmed in Fairfield County in the summer of 2019. Oak wilt monitoring began in 2019 due to the proximity of the New York infestations.

### Forest Legacy

The Forest Legacy Program continued protecting important forests in northern Connecticut with the second conservation easement acquisition of the Whip-poor-will Woods multi-tract project. In 2019, the state acquired a conservation easement on a 79-acre tract

using \$150,000 of Forest Legacy Program funds. The state is continuing acquisition activities on the remaining tracts in the project, with closings to occur in 2020.

**Forest Stewardship**

The Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program reported 31 new or revised forest stewardship plans covering 2,404 acres. Last year, 1,583 landowners attended education programs and 292 landowners received technical assists. Over \$500,000 was provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to forestry-related plans and projects. New projects include "Parcel-level Climate Adaptation" (a three-state Landscape Scale Restoration project) and "Accelerating the Pace of Woodlands Conservation in the Southern New England Heritage Forest," a three-state Regional Conservation Partnership Program that brings \$6 million (\$1.5 million to forest management plans and conservation practices and \$4.5 million to Health Forest Reserves in areas surrounding the junction of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island).

**Urban and Community Forestry**

A new edition of the Tree Owner's Manual was designed for Connecticut, and 5,000 copies were distributed throughout the state. Urban and Community Forestry grants funded four community projects: an invasive species public awareness campaign, ash tree removal and replanting, student education, and a community tree planting project. The Tree Wardens' Association of Connecticut provided training events to enable members to meet required state qualification standards.



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